

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments made to the claims and for the remarks made herein.

Claims 1-6 and 8-12 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 1 and 10-12 have been amended. Claim 3 has been cancelled.

Claims 1-6 and 8-12 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima in view of Kranawetter (USP no. 6,970,504).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with and explicitly traverses the reason for rejecting the claims. However, in the interest of advancing the prosecution of this matter, applicant has elected to amend the claims to more clearly state the invention. More specifically, the claims have been amended to recite "performing an inverse discrete transformation on a pixel block of a known size and sampling the signal at a predetermined rate to obtain a second resolution lower than said first resolution." No new matter has been added.

Support for the amendment may be for at least on page 4, lines 7-15, which state, in part, "the 8x8 IDCT 16 performs an inverse discrete transform in 8x8 blocks to produce blocks of pixels values. After performing the IDCT, the decimation block 18 then samples the output of the 8x8 IDCT at a predetermined rate in order to reduce the resolution of the video frames ... the sampling rate of the decimation block is chosen according to the desired level of internal scaling. In this embodiment, the sampling rate is '2' to provide an output resolution of '1/2' since a 1/4 pixel MC is being utilized" and cancelled claim 3.

Nakajima discloses an apparatus for decoding coded video data with reduced memory size. Nakajima discloses that the apparatus comprises a data size reducer for reducing the size of a decoded video data reconstructed by subsampling pixel differential coding a frame memory and a data size recover for recovering the original size of the decoded video data. Nakajima discloses operating on a reduced size KxM pixel block (element 40, figure 8, and figure 10A, 10B) and using this block size as the resolution of the video signal. However, Nakajima fails to disclose that the reduced size pixel block is

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further subsampled to obtain a second resolution, as is recited in the claims.

Kranawetter discloses a parallel decoding method of interleaved data streams with in an MPEG decoder. Kranawetter is cited for presenting the claim element of upsampling using a repeating pixel method. However, Kranawetter is silent with regard to subsampling a reduced pixel block as is recited in the claims.

A claimed invention is prima facie obvious when three basic criteria are met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the reference themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine the teachings therein. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. And, third, the prior art reference or combined references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

The present invention is not rendered obvious by the combination of Nakajima and Kranawetter as the combined device fails to disclose all the elements claimed. More specifically, the combined device fails to disclose subsampling a reduced pixel block to obtain a second resolution, as is recited in the claims.

Having shown that if the teachings were combined, the combined device would not include all the elements claimed, applicant submits that the reason for the rejections of claim 1 has been overcome and the rejection can no longer be sustained. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim.

With regard to the remaining independent claims, these claims recite subject matter similar to that recited in claim 1 and were rejected citing the same references used in rejecting claim 1. Thus, the remarks made in response to the rejection of claim 1 are applicable in response to the rejection of the remaining independent claims.

Accordingly, for the amendments made to the independent claims, which are similar to those to claim 1, and for the remarks made in response to the rejection of claim 1, which are reasserted, as if in full, in response to the rejection of the remaining independent claims, applicant submits that the reason for the rejection of the remaining independent claims has been overcome and the rejection can no longer be sustained. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

With regard to the remaining claims, these claims ultimately depend from the independent claims, which have been shown to be allowable over the cited references.

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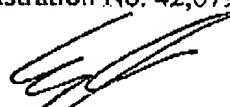
Accordingly, the remaining claims are also allowable by virtue of their dependence from an allowable base claim.

Although the last Office Action was made final, this amendment should be entered. No matter has been added to the claims that would require comparison with the prior art or any further review. Accordingly, pursuant to MPEP 714.13, applicant's amendments should only require a cursory review by the examiner. The amendment therefore should be entered without requiring a showing under 37 CFR 1.116(b).

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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